GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:778
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
EXPLORATION OF GAS IN RANIGANJ COAL FIELD AREA
HANNAN MOLLAH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to resume the exploration of natural gases in Raniganj Coalfield area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will help to improve the sagging economy of the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been granted Petroleum Exploration Licence(PEL) for exploration of Coal Be Methane (CBM) in North Raniganj in West Bengal.ONGC has carried out preliminary geological field investigation and has spudded one slim hole.

Besides, the Govt. has approved the exploration and exploitation of CBM by M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL) i South Raniganj against FIPB approval.

(c) & (d): CBM exploration and exploitation would contribute to general economic activity in the area.